

2025 ECONOMIC REPORT

ST. LOUIS REGION



The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities, including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Region workforce had more than 1,056,400 employees in 2024, making up 35 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2024, 50.4 percent of the workforce was female and 49.6 percent was male, while the Missouri average was 50.1 percent female and 49.9 percent male workers in the workforce. The regional average unemployment rate in 2024 was 3.5 percent, compared to 3.7 percent for Missouri and 4.0 percent for the nation.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2024, 23.9 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier. It was 23.5 percent for Missouri and 24.1 percent for the nation.

For the region, 24.1 percent of the workforce was non-white and 3.9 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 5.1 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the St. Louis Region, 9.1 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.4 percent and the U.S. was at 23.8 percent.

Workforce Demographics

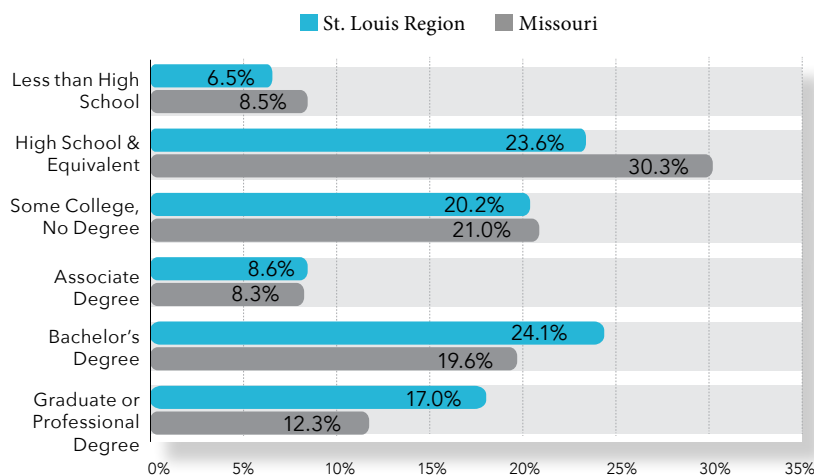
	St. Louis Region	Missouri	United States
Average Monthly Employment in 2024	1,056,407	3,016,886	161,346,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2024	3.5%	3.7%	4.0%
Male	49.6%	49.9%	51.2%
Female	50.4%	50.1%	48.8%
Non-White	24.1%	18.1%	24.9%
Hispanic or Latino	3.9%	5.1%	18.3%
Ages 55 and Older	23.9%	23.5%	24.1%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	10.4%	12.6%	10.7%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	9.2%	12.1%	11.6%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	9.1%	7.4%	23.8%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher (25 years & Older)	49.7%	40.2%	43.8%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	3.8%	4.7%	4.2%

SOURCE: QWI 2024 Q1; PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. CENSUS 2023 ACS 5 YEARS DATA, LAUS 2024 DATA

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but closely matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 10.4 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.1 percent in Missouri and 10.7 percent in the U.S.

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. About fifty percent of the region's population age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 40.2 percent for the state, and 43.8 percent for the nation. About 6.5 percent of the region's population age 25 and older has less than high school education.

Educational Attainment



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2023 5 YEAR ESTIMATES

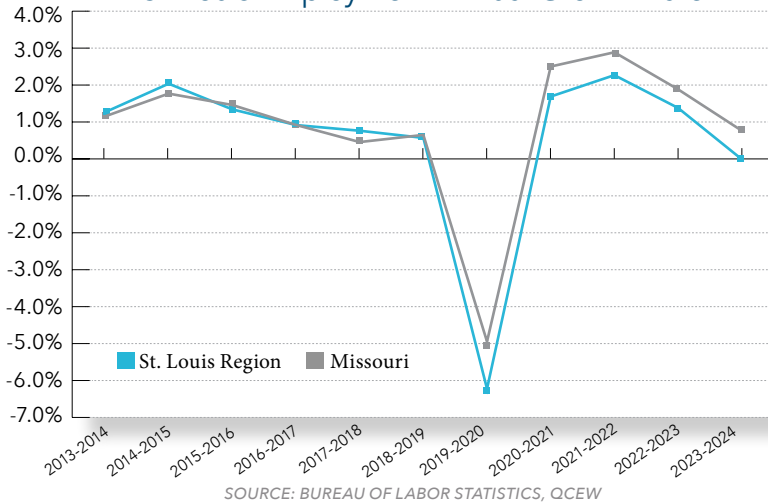
1,056,400
EMPLOYEES
35%
OF MISSOURI'S
EMPLOYMENT

ST. LOUIS REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over one million jobs in 2024 and employment in the region was steady from 2023. Missouri employment increased by 0.8 percent in 2024. From 2020 to 2024, the St. Louis Region averaged 1.1 percent compound annual growth for an overall increase of 5.6 percent. During that same period (2020-2024) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 1.6 percent for an overall gain of 8.3 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in the St. Louis Region in 2024. The industry's employment of over 194,600 is nearly double that of the next largest industry. *Retail Trade* was the second largest industry, with employment of 106,346.

The industry sectors with the largest increase in employment were *Accommodation and Food Services* and *Health Care and Social Assistance*, with an increase of over 18,500 and 17,100 jobs, respectively. *Manufacturing* grew at a compound annualized rate of 0.9 percent.

Management of Companies and Enterprises was the only one sector in the St. Louis Region that declined in employment between 2020 and 2024.

St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

	Employment 2020	Employment 2024	Net Change	2020- 2024 CAGR	2023 Annual Wages
Health Care and Social Assistance	177,565	194,696	17,131	1.9%	\$66,768
Retail Trade	100,555	106,346	5,791	1.1%	\$43,560
Accommodation and Food Services	80,084	98,591	18,507	4.2%	\$29,112
Manufacturing	93,959	98,465	4,506	0.9%	\$93,000
Educational Services	78,156	84,418	6,262	1.6%	\$61,500
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	71,832	77,600	5,768	1.6%	\$104,400
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	70,640	76,524	5,884	1.6%	\$61,740
Finance and Insurance	63,550	65,964	2,414	0.7%	\$103,764
Construction	53,444	61,983	8,539	3.0%	\$81,228
Wholesale Trade	54,788	58,149	3,361	1.2%	\$96,816
Transportation and Warehousing	36,655	40,000	3,345	1.8%	\$57,864
Management of Companies and Enterprises	42,548	39,299	-3,249	-1.6%	\$123,312
Other Services (except Public Administration)	29,710	32,923	3,213	2.1%	\$49,824
Information	26,436	28,034	1,598	1.2%	\$138,300
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	18,161	25,537	7,376	7.1%	\$45,864
Public Administration	17,081	20,412	3,331	3.6%	\$59,832
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	18,002	19,664	1,662	1.8%	\$66,048
Utilities	5,475	6,075	600	2.1%	\$95,856
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,073	1,977	904	13.0%	\$51,600

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2020-2024 QUARTER 2 DATA, LEHD QWI 2023 ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR WAGES. ALL OWNERSHIP

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Management of Companies and Enterprises*, *Chemical Manufacturing*, *Hospitals*, *Machinery Manufacturing*, *Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing*, and *Printing and Related Support Activities*.



MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES & ENTERPRISES

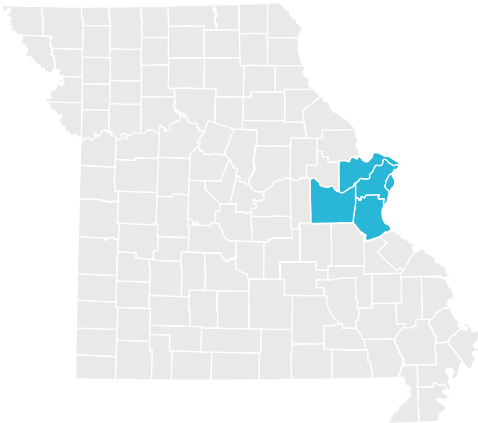
2024 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Management of Companies and Enterprises	35,864	2.0
Chemical Manufacturing	11,953	1.9
Hospitals	62,975	1.7
Machinery Manufacturing	11,722	1.5
Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	3,397	1.5
Printing and Related Support Activities	3,589	1.5
Social Assistance	44,979	1.4
Educational Services	29,715	1.3
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	23,880	1.3
Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions	1,632	1.3
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	31,171	1.3
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities	9,546	1.3
Telecommunications	5,190	1.2
Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Service	4,052	1.2
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries	4,733	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2024

ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the St. Louis Region from 2022-2032 will be in the *Hospitals; Ambulatory Health Care Services; Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries; Warehousing and Storage; and Food Services and Drinking Places*.



St. Louis Largest Growth Industries 2022-2032

	Employment 2022	Employment 2032	Change 2022-2032 Numeric	Change 2022-2032 Percent
Hospitals	68,984	89,414	20,430	29.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	48,044	54,218	6,174	12.9%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	11,411	15,827	4,416	38.7%
Warehousing and Storage	9,387	12,960	3,573	38.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	82,300	85,655	3,355	4.1%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	36,412	39,765	3,353	9.2%
Real Estate	13,110	16,284	3,174	24.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	36,979	39,864	2,885	7.8%
Administrative and Support Services	60,657	63,531	2,874	4.7%
General Merchandise Retailers	20,297	22,980	2,683	13.2%

SOURCE: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. The current projections cycle projected industry and occupation employment from 2022-2032. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

NOW jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides; Stockers and Order Fillers; and Cashiers. Locker Room, Coatroom, and Dressing Room Attendants; Amusement and Recreation Attendants; and Home Health and Personal Care Aides* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

NEXT jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Cooks, Restaurant; Nursing Assistants; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists; Diagnostic Medical Sonographers; and Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

LATER jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Accountants and Auditors* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners; Medical and Health Services Managers; and Personal Financial Advisors* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032

NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2024 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

ST. LOUIS REGION

ST. LOUIS REGION LONG-TERM OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS BY TOP OPENINGS

OCCUPATION TITLE	2022 Estimated Employment	2032 Projected Employment	Annual Growth Openings	Annual Exits	Annual Transfers	Annual Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW OCCUPATIONS							
Home Health and Personal Care Aides ★	38,516	44,550	603	3,323	2,771	6,697	\$24,960
Stockers and Order Fillers	22,142	25,266	312	1,475	2,321	4,108	\$37,044
Cashiers	20,913	20,036	-88	1,969	1,984	3,865	\$29,827
Retail Salespersons ★	23,018	22,821	-20	1,504	1,814	3,298	\$31,854
Waiters and Waitresses ★	14,855	15,167	31	1,291	1,814	3,136	\$35,447
NEXT OCCUPATIONS							
Cooks, Restaurant	11,891	14,974	308	916	1,095	2,319	\$35,317
Nursing Assistants	10,652	12,219	157	724	895	1,776	\$37,743
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers ★	14,026	14,877	85	654	847	1,586	\$52,704
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	8,226	8,944	72	432	822	1,326	\$36,901
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General ★	11,111	12,206	110	514	532	1,156	\$48,357
LATER OCCUPATIONS							
General and Operations Managers ★	37,165	38,746	158	945	2,039	3,142	\$82,950
Registered Nurses ★	33,599	41,435	784	1,246	772	2,802	\$81,238
Accountants and Auditors ★	12,245	12,680	44	385	564	993	\$77,654
Software Developers ★	10,842	12,957	212	204	426	842	\$109,318
Project Management Specialists ★	9,547	10,069	52	224	452	728	\$67,061

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032



DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2024 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 by Lightcast™ for the St. Louis Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Retail Salespersons*; and *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* had a high number of job postings in the region.

OCCUPATION TITLE	ONLINE JOB POSTINGS
NOW OCCUPATIONS	
Retail Salespersons	7,100
Customer Service Representatives	4,710
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,890
Janitors and Cleaners	2,810
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	2,550
NEXT OCCUPATIONS	
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	5,180
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	5,090
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	3,900
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,700
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	3,110
LATER OCCUPATIONS	
Registered Nurses	21,170
Software Developers	3,930
Computer Occupations, All Other	3,260
Medical and Health Services Managers	3,150
General and Operations Managers	2,790

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2024 - APRIL 30, 2025